

# A FRIEND OF ROLAND MOLINEUX SEEKS NOW TO CONVERT HIM.



## DYING, DENIES MURDER CONFESSION.

Robert Alden Fales Leaves  
a Strange Letter for  
His Mother.

IN PRISON FOR LIFE.

Declares That He Shouldered  
Another's Crime to Make  
His Parent Suffer.

Strange indeed is the tale that unfolds itself from consideration of a letter left by Robert Alden Fales, a convicted murderer, who died recently in the New Jersey State Prison at Trenton. In the criminal history of New Jersey this convict was famous as the "boy murderer."

He was accused of killing Thomas Hayden, superintendent of a Newark factory, on April 30, 1892. With great minuteness of detail he confessed the crime. He said that he had killed Hayden with a bullet for the money in the safe. Much of the money was found on him. He was sentenced to death, reprieved, and finally his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

The letter was written on March 1, of this year, when the boy was first taken ill. It is addressed to his mother, to be delivered after his death, is very long, and quite connected in the main. Taken all in all, it is a fascinating document. If the story the boy tells is true, he suffered for the crime of a woman for two motives--one, to cause his mother sorrow for harsh treatment she had given him, the other to live up to the deeds of dime novel heroes of whom he had read.

**Gives Theorists a Chance.**

If the letter is not a statement of facts, but simply a yarn spun to ease a mother's heart in an hour of repentance, it is a document for criminologists to weave theories about.

With simple directness the boy started the letter with the statement that he had not been feeling well and that if he should die he would like to have his mother know that he was innocent of the murder of Thomas Hayden.

Followed this with the statement that he knew how, when and why it was done and that the money had been given him as the price of his silence. He wrote meagre as to detail because, he said, it was of no use to go into particulars.

"What I want to tell you," he continued, "and ask you to forgive me for is the reason why I told every one I was guilty. You remember how you whipped me and how papa whipped me because I was not running away from home? When you stopped whipping I stopped running away. I always remembered every blow that you struck me and every harsh word that you spoke to me. Sometimes I was furious in my heart, because I could not do something bad enough to make you sorry that you ever struck me or spoke harshly to me."

**Complains of Injustice.**

"Do you remember the morning that you and May went to church to early service and I tried to have breakfast ready for you when you came home? And then, just because the little ones were making a noise upstairs, you blamed me. Do you remember how you scolded me when I wanted to show you that I had been busy, and tried to pacify you by giving you a hot breakfast, and that did you do? You sent me away from you and spoke to me so hard and cruel that you nearly drove me wild."

"Often there would come the moment when I would want to put my arms around your neck and kiss you, but then again came that thought of things you had said to me, and I would think you hated me. I would think you hated me."

"I will not say any more about that now, mother. It will make you feel bad enough to remember it. That is not my object, though. I do not want to make you feel bad about it. I only want to show you my heart for telling people that I had killed Thomas Hayden."

"I was so full of revenge and the desire to make you suffer that I did not care what I did."

The boy then explained how he had promised the woman who committed the crime to say nothing and how he had come to confess the crime.

**Imitated Dime Novel Heroes.**

"As you know," he continued, "I had often read dime novels, and had read of men sacrificing themselves for some poor woman's sake and braving all kinds of horrors before they would tell what they knew. I thought I would like to try it, and you can see the result. My mother's forgiveness for the suffering he had caused her, and expressing a willingness to die, the boy said:

"Do not think of you now as I did then. I understand you better. I love you now, if I did not then. Please, mother, do not tell any one about this. Let them think what they please about me. It will make no difference to me when you get ill."

In a postscript the boy added that he had seen the woman twice during his stay in prison, and that she had promised to confess and free him, but, he said, in closing, philosophically or craftily, "I haven't much faith in it."

Mrs. Fales, to vindicate the memory of her son, gave out the strange letter in full. She is a broken woman, and the only joy that has come to her in nearly ten years is the consciousness that her boy died loving her, and the belief that he was convicted unjustly.



Molineux and Meserole.

Darwin Meserole, the son of a distinguished Brooklynite, as is Roland Molineux, was once tried for murder and acquitted. The trial turned his thoughts to religion, and he now seeks to bestow consolation upon the man in the Tombs. Mrs. Meserole's picture is the centre one above, and that of her husband is the larger one on the side. The other two pictures are those of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Molineux.

## BIG DEMOCRAT OUT FOR EXPANSION.

Broad Views of Representative  
Livingston,  
of Georgia.

Washington, July 23.--Representative Livingston, of Georgia, has come out strongly for expansion. Colonel Livingston is one of the oldest members of the House, the ranking Democratic member of the powerful Committee on Appropriations, and one of the leaders of the minority. His views express those of a great many Democrats, especially in the South.

"As to the Philippine question," said he this afternoon, "the Democratic party must be patriotic. It cannot afford to go back on the results of the war with Spain. That war brought about the further expansion of this country. Expansion is a fact, and the Democratic party cannot consistently repudiate the acquisition and responsibilities which have fallen to us naturally."

"Congress, however, should take a hand in this matter. We should treat the Philippines as we have treated and as we propose to treat Cuba. The Democratic party should favor holding the Philippines and giving them a stable government. This cannot be accomplished until the Philippines cease shooting us or are subjugated. No political party ever opposed its own top in a war in which it was engaged and succeeded at the polls. Individuals may with impunity oppose an administration under such circumstances, but it behooves a great political party to be patriotic and to stand by the Government in its endeavor to suppress opposition."

"If I were the President of the United States I would give notice to the Philippines that I was simply the purpose of this Government to establish order and security to person and property in the Philippines and offer to them a republican form of government. In the meantime assuming the trusts, but it will never seriously attempt to eradicate them. This work will remain for the Democratic party to do."

"If the Republican party, as it seems probable," continued Colonel Livingston, "adopts the single gold standard, then the bimetallic plank, without changing the ratio of 16 to 1, will be pushed to the front by the Democrats. If we should yield this point of 16 to 1, then we would yield every point that the Republican party will never be able to settle the financial question to suit the expressed will of the people of the United States. It is incumbent upon the Democratic party to readopt the Chicago platform and press the issue. The free silver question is a more burning question today than it was in 1896, and we are going to readopt and win on it in 1900."

**Union Cigarmakers Boycott Cars.**

L. Friedlander, delegate of the Cigarmakers' Union, announced at the meeting of the Central Federated Unions yesterday that his union had passed a resolution finding any one of its members \$5 who might be caught riding on any cars of one of the metropolitan street railway lines on which there might be a strike.

**EPWORTH LEAGUE MEETS IN 'FRISCO IN 1901.**

Twenty Thousand Attend the Last Meeting of the Convention in Indianapolis.

Indianapolis, July 23.--The Epworth convention formally adjourned to-night to meet in San Francisco in 1901. The final session was devoted to addresses on "Missions." Incoming trains to-day brought thousands of visitors and it was estimated that the number of delegates had reached the 20,000 mark.

The Board of Control will begin its meeting to-morrow morning, which will probably last till Wednesday. Bishop Nide, of Detroit, is chairman of this board. The most important matter to come before the board is the question of federation of the young people's societies.

**Deaths.** Due to the heavy storm of Saturday, caused the death of Mrs. Elizabeth O'Keefe, of No. 118 Wilmet Avenue, Jersey City, as her neighbors declare. She was found lying dead in the yard in this room of her home on Saturday night.

Darwin Meserole Lets the  
Prisoner Know of Religion's Comfort.

CASES MUCH ALIKE. THEY REMAINED AWAY.

He, Too, the Son of a Distinguished Father, Was  
Tried for Murder.

Darwin J. Meserole, who was once charged with murder and who spent five months in jail in Brooklyn awaiting trial, has become



Molineux and Meserole.

deeply interested in the case of Roland B. Molineux. He has sent him a message of hope. He has told him to place his trust in Heaven; that the only repose an innocent man accused of murder can enjoy is in religion.

He tells Molineux that he knows this to be so because soon after his arrest he, Meserole, was converted, and Christian faith made a heaven out of his cold stone cell.

There is something remarkable about these men, Meserole and Molineux, being brought together in this way. Their fathers are both honored citizens, against whom no word was ever justly said, both gray-haired generals, bowed down with the griefs of their sons' misfortunes, and both recipients of the boundless sympathy of their fellow men.

Darwin J. Meserole was the reckless, extravagant son of General J. V. Meserole, president of the Williamsburg Savings Bank, a man of piety, integrity and charity. He and his wife spent their lives in doing good. Their only grief was in the conduct of their son, Darwin, who had characteristics impossible for any one to explain who knew his home life and careful training.

At the age of twenty-two young Meserole found himself standing over the body of Theodore Larbig, whom he had just slain. Both men were infatuated with a woman named "Dovie" Constock.

Meserole was living in her flat, a place supported by a family of four, and had a wife and family. He was a gambler, a big and a gambling man of jealous disposition. He visited the flat unexpectedly and finding out the state of affairs began to beat Mrs. Constock with his fists. Meserole killed him in defending her.

Molineux passed the summer in Raymond Street Jail. While there he was visited by Katherine Malby, a missionary, who taught him to pray. She was a Vassar College graduate, and the organizer of the Civitas Club of Young Women, bent on the study of municipal problems. She converted Meserole wholly, and after his acquittal on the ground of self-defense he resolved to live a new life.

He sold his seat in the Stock Exchange and gave the \$5,000 of the money he received to the widow of the man he killed. Then he devoted himself to charity. He was publicly baptized in Plymouth Church and opened a retreat for converted sinners.

After four years of good works he proposed marriage to Miss Malby. They were married on June 24.

Molineux interpreted him from the start, not only because his father and General Edward L. Molineux, the father of young Molineux, were friends, but because he had been baptized in the same church as Meserole, and the father of his son was a member of the same church.

It does not appear that either of them had called upon Molineux in the Tombs, but they here caused it to be announced to him that they are his friends and will stand by him in all things.

Young Molineux has not shown any signs of placing his reliance in his associates, among them being Mr. Harry Bram, John Chatterton and Edward Solomon.

To his charge that Miss Russell "whitely and capriciously" broke her heart, friends answer by quoting from one of her songs, entitled "A Woman's Way."

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**HONORS TO INGERSOLL.**

Memorial Services Held and His Praise Sounded in Peoria, Ill.

Peoria, Ill., July 23.--Memorial services in memory of the late Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll, who was for many years a prominent resident of Peoria, were held in the tabernacle here this afternoon.

Over 500 of the city's oldest and truest friends were in attendance, quite a number being members of his old regiment, the Eleventh Illinois Cavalry. Addresses were delivered by about twenty of his associates, neighbors, comrades and friends, and resolutions lauding his works of charity and his noble character were adopted.

A movement toward the erection of a monument to his memory in Peoria is being made in this city, by popular subscription, was inaugurated by the appointment of a committee of fifteen.

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These excursions had been fixtures for years. They had been patronized by thousands of girls and young men from the factory towns in the valley, and had been huge successes financially. But in this year of grace the clairvoyant got in her deadly work.

About a week ago it became rumored up and down the Naugatuck Valley that Mrs. Adams, a clairvoyant, who asserted that she had predicted the Windsor Hotel fire in New York, had said that one of the excursion boats would be lost. She was busy as to the identity of the boat, according to the rumor. The Celts laughed it to scorn, deeming it a trick of a rival organization, while the Temple of Honor people treated it cavalierly.

But the rumor spread and spread, and the sale of tickets fell off, and there was a chill on the valley. It was then noticed that Mrs. Rockwood, a clairvoyant, of this town was doing the business of her life. She was turning them away. Hundreds of factory girls asked her if the rumor that one of the boats would be lost was true, and she answered that it was at 50 cents per answer. Those who consulted Mrs. Rockwood told others.

There were four special trains in the depot here Saturday morning, three for the Celts and one for the Temple of Honor. In the depot there was also a mob of weeping mothers and wives, begging daughters and sons and husbands not to tempt the bring deep against the clairvoyants. The consequences were that the special trains pulled out with sixty people aboard, instead of 3,000, as had been expected, and at other towns only a few got on. New Haven furnished about five hundred.

Both excursions were financial fiascos, but soot excursions at night, and there was a panic aboard the Tolchester when she ran into rough weather coming up the Sound on the return trip. Somebody started the rumor that the boat was doomed, but the crew quelled the excitement.

The whole town of Derby was down to meet the excursionists at midnight, and it is hard to say whether the prevailing sentiment was one of joy or anger. The clairvoyants at midnight, and the women were bitter to a degree against the clairvoyants.

Word reaches here from Bridgeport that a clairvoyant has put her deadly light on the advertised excursion of the St. Joseph's Literary, Temperance and Benevolent Association of that town, to sail to North Beach on August 10. In view of the experience of the excursions the last Saturday, the Bridgeport people are going to change their plans to picnic, which they can reach on trolley cars.

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In a Suit He Calls Her a Veteran in the Business and Mentions Her Marriages.

Alleging that Lillian Russell has damaged his pocketbook \$15,000 worth, George V. Lederer brings suit against her and uses some rather ungallant words about her in his legal papers.

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